OUR CLIENTS' SUCCESS IS OUR SUCCESS

Patent Success

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PICKS POWER FROM THE AIR.

By
CHARLTON LAWRENCE EDHOLM.

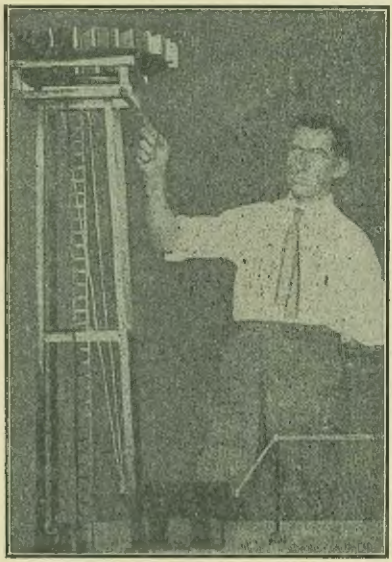
(From November Issue of Technical World Magazine).

A remarkable scene took place in the legislature of Arizona this spring when the lawmakers enthusiastically voted for the parole of a certain convict in the State penitentiary, granting him a leave of absence for thirty days and by means of private contributions raising a fund to defray his expenses to Washington, D. C., and return.

The prisoner, Roy J. Meyers, is serving a three and a half year sentence, but in spite of the fact that he bears the stigma of a convicted law breaker, he has demonstrated that a convict can be a useful member of society. During his imprisonment he perfected an electrical device of such original character as to arouse feelings of wonder and skepticism until experts had seen it in actual operation. It is a device to draw electricity from the atmosphere for light and power, and the thirty-day parole was granted in order that the inventor might protect his rights through the patent office at Washington.

With the acquiescence of the legislature, Governor Hunt granted the parole and the prisoner was allowed to go free without any guard or any assurance but his word of honor that he would return. Two days before the period had elapsed, Meyers again presented himself before the governor, having accomplished his mission, and then returned to the penitentiary at Florence, where he continues to serve his sentence.

This, in brief, is the picturesque story which has called attention of the civilized world to a newly discovered electrical genius, and to another feature of the case which is of



Roy J. Meyers, the Arizona Convict Inventor.

equal importance and human interest; namely, the enlightened policy pursued by our youngest State in its treatment of convicts.

Meyers' chance came when Governor George W. B. Hunt chose as superintendent of the penitentiary at Florence a man of very different type from the political hanger-on who too often fills such a position. "Big Bob" Sims was a business man of advanced views, and was chosen for the position because of his knowledge of human nature and his executive ability.

One of the progressive steps he took was to abolish the stripes in the penitentiary, and to adopt a much less rigorous confinement of the inmates. The "honor system" with the co-operation of Governor Hunt, was inaugurated.

Before entering the prison, Meyers had already applied for various patents, among them one for an improved trolley head which prevents the

trolley wheel from jumping the wire. Meyers had a conference with Superintendent Sin s and Parole Clerk Sanders, and it was to these gentlemen that the inventor first explained the principles of his new device for securing electrical energy from the air. The officials were willing to give the man an opportunity to develop his plan and a little wooden building outside of the walls was turned over to Meyers and was fitted up as a workshop and a laboratory. The first demonstration of the new apparatus was made shortly thereafter, the electricity drawn from the atmosphere being used to spark the gas engines of the pump house, and although the device was crude yet it did the work, and removed the doubts of his friends. Further development of the "absorber" followed, and his second model was constructed, and developed eight volts. The machine came to the attention of the remarkable woman who brought his name before the legislature.

This was Miss Kate Barnard, State Commissioner of Charities and Corrections of Oklahoma, who was a guest of Mr. Sims, while studying prison conditions. She saw the machine at work, became familiar with the facts of Meyers' case, and was impressed by his rather blunt and unaffected personality, for Meyers has nothing of the polish or glibness of the poseur. He is a simple, earnest student of mechanical problems and not the sort of a man to make a sentimental appeal for sympathy because of any grace of person or manner. Therefore it was the value of Meyers' invention, together with his essential integrity (in spite of his lapse) which so strongly impressed Miss Barnard that when she appeared before the Arizona legislature not long afterwards, addressing that body on the need of enlightened legislation along the line of her own work, she told the story of Roy Meyers and his epoch-making invention.

So. early in May, Meyers set out for Washington, unaccompanied.

In his own wards: "When I arrived in Washington and laid my plans before the patent office experts, they merely smiled at me and told me I would have to build a model and demonstrate my claims—that it seemed strange that I, unknown as I am to the electrical world, should have accomplished the things for which Edison, Tesla and other experts have been striving for years.

"They could not grasp the meanings of my drawings nor the explanation I tried to make to them. There was little time to spare, as I had only twenty days left of my leave, but I set to work and in a few days was able to take a crude model around to the patent office to make a demonstration.

"Arriving at the patent office I telephoned to a friend who had been so kind as to introduce me and aid me in reaching the proper officials. The absorber was hoisted on two short poles and made to work. While they were as yet unable to understand the principles involved and hardly willing to believe their eyes, they were forced to admit that I had something new and different, and they told me that there would be no further objection; that I might file my application without further delay.

"I hope to construct my first large machine right here in Phoenix. I feel grateful to Governor Hunt and others for what they have done for me and for the help they have given in securing protection I might not otherwise have had and I am desirous of demonstrating this gratitude. I am going back to Florence today to resume the serving of my sentence, which will expire in ten months. Then, here in Phoenix, I will begin the work of making my machines."

While there are some details of the device which the inventor refuses to make public, yet there are many general features that may be explained. It is planned that the machine, to be set up in Phoenix, will generate sufficient power to light that city, and will consist of a two-hundred foot tower upon which is placed the "absorber." The latter consists of a series of magnetized steel plates set in a circle, (the manner of preparing them is kept secret) and this mechanism attracts the electricity from the atmosphere. This is carried by wires to a transformer in the engine house below and thence is applied to produce either power or light after the usual manner.

In an authorized statement Meyers says: "The flow of electricity is constant. When it emerges into the transformer it is in the form of a direct current. It will absorb the electricity night and day and will work whenever the wireless will work. I can put up a plant to light such a building as the Adams Hotel for about one thousand five hundred dollars, and one of the principal items of expense is the cost of the towers, the wires, the magn[illegible]zing of one set of plates, which is p[illegible]t of the secret of the treatment which makes it respond to the accumulations of the atmosphere."

The foregoing is a story of human interest. We were greatly surprised last May when Mr. Meyers came to our office in relation to his patent business. Though we had already secured his trolley patent, we did not know that Mr. Meyers was a convict until he showed us Governor Hunt's letter permitting him to come to Washington under parole. The story of this man speaks for itself and we can testify ourselves, from intimate personal knowledge to the usefulness of his career. As this is being written, Mr. Meyers is with us in consultation on patent matters of utmost importance. He was pardoned three months ago, and is now a free man, therefore. What is most remarkable, however, is the fact that he has already realized thousands of dollars from his **imprisoned** inventive genius, and has offers for his patent U. S. rights alone that run into seven figures.

METHODS.

Bear in mind that proper service on the part of your attorneys, whoever may be selected by you, necessitates that when you write letters prompt response should follow. If calling for information or advice it is rare that any letter received by us is not responded to on the day of its receipt, or the following day. We have a reputation among our clients for the promptness with which we conduct our correspondence and time and again have we been complimented upon the careful way in which we answer each inquiry which is propounded by an inventor writing to us. Some attorneys we are told seem to have a habit of overlooking certain inquiries from their clients, either purposely or through carelessness.

Another thing of importance is the prompt preparation of your patent application. When we receive the authorization to proceed we send our client complete papers and copies of drawings, often within a week after the case arrives, but rarely indeed do we require more than ten days or two weeks, and the exceptions are only in those cases where extremely difficult and technical drawings must be supplied. The reason we are able to be so prompt is because we confine our business to that class of inventors who, realizing the importance of what they are evolving, are willing to pay just a little more for the best kind of service.

PATENT DECISIONS OF INTEREST TO THE INVENTOR.

The aggregation of these several old elements in one structure may have produced, and doubtless did produce a hot air furnace that was some improvement upon the prior art, in the respect that they may have been stronger, more durable, or easier of construction. But these results were due to the functions of each old element acting independently and by itself, without co-action with the other elements. A box put together with screws, mitred joints and dowel pins, may be an improvement, in appearance, strength and utility, upon one put together with nails alone, but the elements of screws, mitred joints and dowel pins is an aggregation of elements, each contributing its own function and not a patentable combination.—Spear vs. Kelsey, 158 Fed. 622; 85 C. C. A. 444.

A process patent can only be anticipated by a similar process. It is not sufficient to show a piece of mechanism by which the process might have been performed.—Carnegie vs. Cambria, 185 U. S. 403; 46 L. Ed. 968; 22 S. Ct. 698.

Patents for inventions are not to be treated as mere monopolies, and therefore, odious in the eyes of the law; but they are to receive a liberal construction, and under the fair application of the rule,**et res magis valeat quam pereat,** are if practicable to be so interpreted as to uphold and not destroy the right of the inventor.—Turrill v. Railroad, 68 U. S. 491; 17 L. Ed. 668.

It must be remembered, however, that an improvement of an old device, or a new combination of elements not infrequently marks a greater advance in the art and discloses a more useful invention than the conception of the original machine or a knowledge of the old elements of the combination and that such an improvement is equally entitled with the conception of the original device to the protection of a patent.—National v. Interchangeable, 106 Fed. 693; 45 C. C. A. 544.

Failure to mark article "patented" or to give notice is a bar to the recovery of more than nominal damages; and where the question of notice is in dispute it should be left to the jury.—Coupe v. Royer, 155 U. S. 565; 39 L. Ed. 263; 15 S. Ct. 199.

One may not escape infringement by adding to or subtracting from a patented device, by changing its form, or making it more or less efficient, while he retains its principle and mode of operation, and attains its results by the use of the same or equivalent mechanical means.—Lourie v. Lenhart, 130 Fed. 122; 64 C. C. A. 456.

Invention is that which brings out of the realms of the mind something that never existed before. It may consist in the combination of old elements, the invention being in the combination. To make it so there must be a joint action or operation of the elements,—i. e., the elements must co-operate or act jointly to produce the result or object of the combination,—or else the assembled elements is a mere aggregation, and is not patentable. It is not necessary, however, that their action should be simultaneous. San Francisco v. Keating, 68 Fed. 351; 15 C. C. A. 476.

Upon a bill in equity, the plaintiff is entitled to recover the amount of gains and profits that the defendants have made by the use of the invention. Tilghman v. Proctor, 125 U. S. 136; 31 L. Ed. 664; 8 S. Ct. 894.

DENTISTS AS INVENTORS.

That many inventors are found among the dentists' accounts, in part at least, for the high development of the science especially in this country. Considering all of this, it is strange that no one has yet, so we are told, provided a plastic filling that will permanently resist the action of the fluids of the mouth. Such a filling would probably mark the greatest advance made for years in the dental art.

REDUCING THE NOISE ON STREET CURVES.

Recently in Washington city a lady secured a judgment against a street railroad company for damage to her dress by the heavy oil used to lubricate a track curve to reduce wear and eliminate the scream-like noise when a car rounded the curve. As a result, the company stopped oiling the curve and the noise at times is almost intolerable. Some means, possibly mechanical may be devised to overcome the friction between the wheel flange and curved rail and thus dispose of the noise nuisance and also avoid the excessive wear of wheel and rail.

IMPORTANT PATENTS OBTAINED BY US DURING RECENT MONTHS.

(We will send a copy of any U. S. patent mentioned herein at a cost of ten cents in stamps or coin.)

Smith & Sult, Marshalltown, Iowa; Ventilated Hats; 1,039,605.

W. F. Watkins, Butte, Montana; Amusement Device; 1,041,538.

Steingruber & McNeil, Hazlehurst, Miss.; Rail Joint; 1,044,406.

Charles Obenauf, North Lima, O.; Combined Fastening Device and Fence Post; 1,044,231.

Geo. Habig, Los Angeles,Calif.; Roller Bearing Drive; 1,044,379.

B. L. Mills, Hastings, Nebr.; Air Pressure Reservoir; 1,044,465.

Geo. Risk, Newark, N. J.; Pulley Block, 1,032,943.

Emil Schloss, New York City; Waterproof Flower Stem Protector; 1,044,260.

P. E. Jeanmairet, Elgin, Ill.; Escapement Wheel; 1,044,054.

Blenkner & Smith, Mountain Home, Idaho; Electric Heater for Face Massage; 1,033,867.

L. M. Brundage, Susquehanna, Pa.; Means for Cleaning Stables; 142,274; Canada.

Burton & Gardner, New York City; Clutch for Engine Starters; 1,042,887.

Harry Brandley, Matfield Green, Kansas; Door Latch; 1,035,077.

W. H. Coneby, Indianapolis, Ind.; Combined Information and Advertising Device; 1,038,298.

Adam Carpenter, Elmira, N. Y.; Electric Cooker and Heater; 1,043,667.

Alfred Ahlden, Northport, Wash.; Saw Set; 1,037,711.

Alfred Ahlden, Northport, Wash.; Saw Set; 142,628; Canada.

J. H. Alfredson, Hibbing, Minn.; Steam Boiler Feeder; 1,036,408.

Allen & Allen, Momence, Ill.; Corn Husker; 1,035,071.

Wm. Anderson, Parkland, Wash.; Turbine Engine; 1,041,562.

Stephen Bacsardi, Brooklyn, N. Y.; P. A. Y. E. Car; 1,040,115.

F. A. Baughman, Clyde, O.; Automatic Operating Means for Railway Gates.

B. M. Carlson, Walnut Grove, Minn.; Ironing Board; 1,036,795.

Grant Harer, Long Creek, Oregon; Horse Detacher; 1,038,572.

Wm. R. Hall, Warner, N. H.; Bundle Rack for Bicycles; 1,040,192.

E. O. Klemm, Saginaw, Mich.; Automatic Graphophone Stop; 143,254; Canada.

J. F. Hambly, Oleander, Calif.; Envelope Moistener; 1,040,667.

G. A. Glass, Newark, N. J.; Gas Cock Lock; 1,039,048.

C. A. Hart, Findlay, O.; Lifting Jack; 1,042,222.

F. C. Gillman, Chehalis, Wash.; Gas Cut off; 1,045,693.

Vincent Gieber, Coweta, Okla.; Cotton Stalk Cutter; 1,031,641.

Roy H. Gerard, Berkeley, Calif.; Variable Speed Transmission Gearing; 142,022; Canada.

Friske & Score, Colfax, N. Dak.; Ironing Board Cabinet; 1,040,182.

C. W. Fischer, Sparks, Neb.; Shoe Lace Buckle or Lock; 1,040,918.

Edlund & Leafgren, Axtell, Nebr.; Tire Protector; 1,039,665; also Canada.

J. C. Everton, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Canning & Drying Apparatus; 1,036,985.

Alexy Feall, Long Beach, Calif.; Aeroplane; 1,037,749.

J. L. Hite, Huntington, W. Va.; Clamp; 1,042,224.

C. B. Hunter, Bessemer, Ala.; Adhesive; 1,035,090.

C. E. Johnson, Lincoln, Neb.; Blowpipe; 1,038,381.

C. W. Levine, Rockford, Ill.; Grain Shocker; 1,033,023.

John Muldoon, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Stamp or Label Affixing Machine; 141,894; Canada.

J. T. Rydberg, Garwood, N. J.; Engine Construction; 1,038,970.

J. J. Salmer, Clinton, Iowa; Gage for Setting Cutter-Head Knives; 1,042,280.

S. J. Prater, Clifton, Tenn.; Churn Attachment; 1,042,964.

Mrs. Mineola McIlveene, Lueders, Texas; Hair Waver; 1,041,651.

Slingsby & Slingsby, Los Angeles, Calif.; Saw Filing Device; 1,039,602; also Canada.

Theo. Schuricht, St. Francis, Kansas; Pipe Mold; 1,039,596.

Gustave Undeen, Proctor, Vt.; Polishing Head; 1,035,758.

Ernst Troike, Sandusky, O.; Engine Muffler; 143,503; Canada.

J. D. Wiese, Manson, Iowa; Automatic Door Guide; 1,040,829.

Sigfried Peterson, Lost Springs, Kansas; Plow; 1,041,666.

John Mitchell, Auckland, New Zealand; Building Walls; 1,039,313.

W. H. Smith, Macon, Ga.; Cover Fastening & Releasing Device; 141,447; Canada.

W. G. Richardson, Cambridge,Mass.; Life Preserver; 143,921; Canada.

J. O. McCoy, Manchester, N. H.; Tool Holder & Heater; 1,035,720.

Andrew Dale, Funkley, Minn.; Berry Picker; 1,038,302.

Henry Malgady, Jersey City, N. J.; Car Door; 1,033,026.

August Wennerstrom, Ashtabula, O.; Strap Retainer; 1,037,381.

Guy F. Humphreys, Minot, N. Dak.; Thermotic Switch; 1,042,920.

H. I. Manley, Kansas City, Mo.; Hydraulic Clutch; 1,043,617.

Louis Onsrud, Westby, Wis; Attachment for Wagon Boxes; 1,034,028.

Th. Erickson, Oregon City, Ore.; Electrical Burglar Alarm; 1,034,223.

R. A. Moore, New York City; Gun Silencer; 141,555; Canada.

WANTED.

A Vegetable Peeling Machine.

The letters below were received by us from the two leading hotels of Washington, D. C.

THE RALEIGH

May 9, 1912.

Mr. J. F. Robb,
City.

Dear Sir:—

In reply to your favor of the 6th, beg to say—that there are a number of vegetable peeling machines on the market, some of which I understand are considered satisfactory. However, I have never seen one that would do our work satisfactorily. I would say that a machine that would peel potatoes and similar vegetables, without peeling away too much of the vegetables would have a good market.

Yours truly,
E. L. Weston,
Manager.

THE NEW WILLARD

Beeler & Robb,
City.

Gentlemen:—

In reference to your letter of the 6th inst., beg to say that there are several machines on the market similar to the one you speak of, but as yet I have not been able to select one as being perfect; possibly your client has something better, and more practicable; if so I would be glad to try his machine if he cares to put one in here on trial.

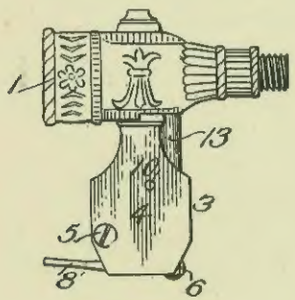
Yours truly,
C. E. Schaffner,
Steward.

AERONAUTICS.

The following unique advertisement appeared recently in a Hanover (Germany) paper: "Lost, from an aeroplane, gold watch and chain; was last seen disappearing in a large stack of rye on a field near Ulzen. Liberal reward for return of same."

SAFETY GAS COCK.

An excellent little contrivance has recently been patented by us for our client, Mr. George A. Glass, Manager, Francis R. Niglutsch, Publisher, Newark, N. J. As shown in the illustration, this device consists of locking means associated with the ordinary gas cock such as is used in homes and with almost every type of gas burner for lighting and heating purposes. Many accidents have been caused by the failure of persons to close the gas valve entirely and quite frequently deaths have resulted from asphyxiation due to the looseness of the valve whereby, after it is turned off, a slight touch of the same will turn it on, causing escape of gas.



Safety Gas Cock.

Mr. Glass' idea is to provide an automatically operating locking member which will lock the valve in its closed and open positions and require to be manually operated in order to permit of opening the valve after it has once been closed. The locking member is shown at 13 in the illustration and the finger lever 8′ pulls it out of engagement with the coupling 1 upon the exercise of suitable pressure against said lever, thereupon allowing for turning of the handle 3 and actuation of the valve in the customary way. We predict that Mr. Glass has here an important invention which, in one form or another, will sometime be required to be used upon gas cocks possibly by legislative action.

AN ODD ENGINE STARTER.

The problem of satisfactorily starting a gasoline engine has been attacked from a new point of view, the apparatus being somewhat similar to an old-style "priming attachment." Screwed into each valve cap is a small reservoir which contains gasoline. Into this gasoline dips an electric filament which receives its current from a battery, through a starting switch. When the current is switched on, the filament is heated and gasoline vapors are forced through a tube into the cylinders.

AMONG OUR CLIENTS.

Mr. J. E. Smith, President of the Sunlight Hat Company, of Marshalltown, Iowa, has just advised us of his return from an advertising tour in the interest of his company. In three weeks time, the salesmen of the company have sold about $4000. worth of "Sunlight" hats and caps, inventions patented and in process of patenting through our firm.

—

The Interstate Novelty Company, of Mountain Home, Idaho, has taken over the rights to the invention of our clients, Messrs. Blenkner and Smith for Electric Heater for Face Massage purposes. This is an extremely practical face heater which is adapted to fit against the face of the user in the massage operation.

—

By assignments of part interest to several different persons, Mr. W. F. Watkins, of Butte, Montana, has disposed of his rights to a simple amusement device for sums aggregating over a thousand dollars.

—

Our client, The Shoberg Company, of Sioux City, Iowa, manufacturers of the Shoberg Flash Light Apparatus, have just closed a contract with a German manufacturer who has taken over the German rights on a royalty basis, the contract running for ten years time. Contract papers were prepared by our firm.

—

A short time ago, we received some neat pamphlets showing the automobile jacks manufactured by Mr. Charles A. Hart, of Findlay, Ohio, and which jacks have been protected by us in the United States and Canada under a series of patents. Mr. Hart reports that he is meeting with quite a demand for his invention.

—

One of the most practical and desirable apparatus for canning and drying fruit is now being marketed by the Southern Evaporator Company, of Chattanooga, Tenn., which company controls the patents recently procured by us for Mr. J. E. Everton, of the same place. We understand that this apparatus is meeting with great success in the trade.

—

The L. A. Brown Mfg. Co., of Clay Center, Neb., is now placing on the market the Speed Ball Score Keepers recently patented through us for L. A. Brown, of the same place. These score keepers are especially adapted for use by advertisers and are sold in two to five thousand lots for $80. per thousand, prices increasing in smaller lots.

—

We had the pleasure recently of a visit from our client, Mr. Frank R. Pomeroy, of New York City, who stated at the time that he has met with excellent results in getting his new car unloading device on the market. Mr. Pomeroy has been engaged in this business for many years and his new unloader is decidedly an advance step in the art.

QUALITY COUNTS.

In my office when you come to see us, as we hope you will do some time during our business relations, you will perhaps notice a couple of tall stacks of elastic bookcases. They are Globe Wernicke made and are beautifully finished in quartered oak. Now we can buy book case sections at two-fifths the cost of these and an agent once asked me why I did not do so. I did not think it necessary to argue much that the $1.75 kind would undoubtedly do as well for a few years but how about fifteen or twenty years from now. Our firm is in business to stay and it is least expensive to buy good stuff from the outstart. My desk is the sanitary type, solid reliable goods, and looks as well today as when we bought it years ago. This applies to furniture throughout our offices, and the reason why we buy goods that always cost a little more, is the same as is the reason why we urge inventors to purchase a little better than the average service in procuring their patents—only it is of vastly more importance to retain the highest class of attorneys to protect your invention, because there is so much more at stake.

We procure patents that stand the test of time and they are the only kind to get, hence our output is restricted and will always be, because our service is **personal** and our personal capacity is limited. We are giving today a class of service in promptness of procurement and protective strength of patents, equaled by few attorneys in the United States in our honest candid opinion. Absolutely our only proof to substantiate the foregoing statement is the **evidence** we offer that in a much briefer business career, we have achieved greater results for clients than most other firms, some of which have been established half a century.

PATENT RIGHTS UNIQUE GIFT TO SMITHSONIAN.

The Smithsonian Institution recently received a unique gift in the shape of patent rights in a device to consume smoke and destroy smelter fumes.

E. G. Cottrell, of San Francisco, an expert in the employ of the Bureau of Mines, investigating the smelter fumes problem, announced at the convention of the American Chemical Society that he and several Californians associated with him had turned over their rights in such a device to the Smithsonian through Secretary Charles D. Walcott.

Profits are expected to come to the institution as a result of the gift which also is designed to guide scientific and industrial development in new paths.

Beeler & Robb, April 22, 1912.
Washington, D. C.
Gentlemen:—

Was talking to Mr. Rippateau this afternoon and I think he will take out a patent on his Ice Weighing device. He mentioned that he had just heard from you. I am doing nicely with my Base Ball Score Keeper and will enclose you some of my literature. I may have some more work for you later on. Yours truly,
L. A. Brown, Clay Center, Nebr.

Beeler & Robb, October 31, 1912.
Dear Sirs:—

I am enclosing herewith drawings and description of my Nojerk Spring Mower Boxing and five dollars ($5.00) for search of the Patent Office Records. If the search proves favorable I will file application for patent. Your work for me on my other patent was very satisfactory, and although I received offers to get my patent cheaper, it is not always the cheapest that pays. Hoping that you will give your usual prompt attention to the matter, I remain,
Yours truly,

Spokane, Wash., Nov. 12, 1912.
Beeler & Robb, Attys.,
Gentlemen:—

I am in receipt of your favor of the 26th ult., enclosing copy of letter to Mr. Sims, of this city. I wish to compliment you on the rule of your business "not to communicate with any parties regarding the confidential matters of our clients" and to thank you for its application in Neligh, Nebr. Will A. Sapp,
my case. Yours very truly,
(Signed) B. S. McFarlan,
320 S. Brown Street.

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WASHINGTON . . DECEMBER, 1912

A LITTLE ADVICE.

Yesterday, I was called on the phone by my friend, H. L. Franc, Attorney - at - Law, of this city. Mr. Franc is a general law practitioner and told me that one of his clients was in his office and desired the service of a patent attorney who could be recommended. The client referred to had the names of a couple of local firms who distribute guarantee certificates, free advertising offers, and similar inducements in relation to patent work. Mr. Franc merely stated that, of course, he recognized that his client would probably suffer at the hands of the special inducement plus free advertising patent firms and therefore asked me to give my best attention to the case of the gentlemen referred.

As a practitioner, this attorney recognizes, along with most other sensible businessmen that the average person does not realize that, in professional work, it is impracticable to combine good service with a lot of cheap offers, including the advertising of patents, etc. We have frequently brought to the attention of our correspondents that the advertising inducement used by some attorneys is nothing more or less than a deceptive mode of impressing inventors with the idea that this advertising will effect a sale of the patent procured. We have been through the mill and know by our own personal experience that such advertising is worthless and is not a proper way by which to bring a meritorious invention before a prospective purchaser. We do not want you to accept our own statement to this effect but, if you will write us, we will give you the names of clients who have come to us from attorneys offering to advertise patents procured by them, and which clients will tell you that their patents were neither sold by such attorneys, but in many instances, they were never procured. Concluding this bit of advice, we are sure that you will appreciate the value of our suggestion when we ask that, before entrusting your interests to any patent attorney who issues patent ability guarantee certificates with deceptive fee refund propositions and free advertising of patents, you merely go to your local lawyer and ask him whether he would select a firm using such methods as against a firm like our own who do not use methods of this sort. If you will do this, you will protect your own interests to a greater extent than you can realize for the simple reason that you will reach a decision to select attorneys whose services may mean to you the difference between a broad protective patent and a restricted patent that will be practically worthless so far as the realization of returns therefrom is concerned.

EXTENSION CAR STEP.

There will be a time when all passenger cars now in use will be equipped with extension steps. The expedient of employing the stool now used on Pullman cars is a crude one, but even this expedient is not employed for the average day car. Patrons of street cars have impressed street railway corporations of the necessity of lowering the steps, especially for the convenience of ladies and elderly persons in egress and ingress, and there is no reason why, in the equipment of railway passenger cars, the necessity and desirability of acceding to the requirements in this connection should not be recognized.

FORM LETTER.

Our clients will remember that we are always ready to supply them with a suitable form letter with which to correspond with manufacturers in regard to their invention at a charge of only $1.00. This letter is a handy tool by which to present your invention in a business like and intelligent manner to a prospective purchaser of patent rights.

LIST OF MANUFACTURERS.

We think that we have already announced in previous issues of this paper our willingness to supply our clients and inventors generally with a list of manufacturers, ranging from twelve to twenty names, who are particularly interested in the line of invention to which a certain device or patent relates. The charge for this list of United States manufacturers is $1.00, but if a list of foreign manufacturers is required, the charge is $2.50.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

(Three Payments)

Date

.....For search of Patent Records and complete report as to patentability including copies of prior pertinent patents.	$ 5.00
.....For preparation and prosecution of application $25.00; for making one sheet of drawings $5.00; and First Government Fee $15.00, amounts payable to us and the Patent Office for complete prosecution of application	$45.00
.....Final Government Fee payable to Patent Office within six months after patent is allowed.....	$20.00
Total	$70.00

NOTE: Where application requires two sheets of drawings, add $5.00 to the second payment.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

(Five Payments)

Date

.....For search of Patent Records and complete report as to patentability including copies of prior pertinent patents.	$ 5.00
.....For First Government Fee whereupon complete application papers and drawings will be sent for our client's approval and execution	15.00
.....One-half of our attorney fee $15.00 and cost of drawing $5.00 payable when application papers are approved and returned to us for filing at the Patent Office.....	20.00
.....Balance of our attorney fee payable on allowance of patent or completion of prosecution of application.....	15.00
.....Final Government Fee payable to Patent Office within six months after patent is allowed.....	20.00
Total	$75.00

Note: Where an application requires two sheets of drawings, add $5.00 to third payment.

We draw particular attention to the fact that while our minimum charge for a patent may be slightly higher than some attorneys, we only increase our charges $5.00 in a two sheet case while most attorneys raise their fees $10.00 for each added sheet of drawings!

The cost of patents under our terms is $70.00 in three payments, and $75.00 in five payments. Many of our clients desire to send our attorney fee all at one time and by so doing, they save us book-keeping expense and trouble incidental to delayed payments. The cost of patent to them is reduced $5.00 for this reason. Under the five payment schedule, which is used by inventors whose funds are limited, we do not receive one-half of our fee until patent is allowed or prosecution of the case is terminated. These terms apply to ordinary cases but are not invariable because occasionally an important mechanical structure might be illustrated on one or two drawings and yet involve five times as much technical work and time as an invention of average complicacy. We therefore prefer to make a special quotation of charges on such cases; also on cases requiring two or more sheets of drawings.

The date spaces are left blank so our clients may fill in dates of remittances when their cases are placed in our hands thus keeping a complete record.

$10,000 PRIZE FOR A PRACTICAL SUGAR BEET PULLER AND TOPPER.

The Great Western Sugar Company, of Denver, Colo., has offered a prize of $10,000 for a practical sugar beet puller and topper which shall fill the specifications given in a circular published by the company and which may be obtained free of charge on application to the company. From this circular we glean the more salient conditions as follows:

The beet puller and topper must fulfill the required specifications to the complete satisfaction of a committee of judges appointed by the company. The offer may be in force until the first day of March, 1915, but the prize may be awarded at any time prior to the first of March, 1915, when a practical beet puller and topper is forthcoming. If two or more contestants fulfill all the required conditions and specifications, the committee of judges are to exercise their sole discretion and are to award the prize to the one who in their opinion has solved the problem most practically. The contestants will be required to demonstrate their machines at such times and places as the committee of judges may designate. The contest is open to the general public including the employees of the Great Western Sugar Company, and of all sugar companies.

The Great Western Sugar Company by awarding the prize will acquire no interest in the invention, design or machine of the successful contestant.

The motive power required for different soil and weather conditions must not be excessive, that is, it must not exceed four horses per beet row, if animal power is used. The device must pull and top all the beets and separate beets and tops convenient to load. It is especially understood that the work may be done by two machines, of which one does the topping, the other one the pulling or vice versa although a combined machine is preferred. The pulling and topping must be done in a satisfactory manner. The beet puller and topper must be adjustable for rows spaced from sixteen to twenty inches apart. Damage to the beets or tops must be avoided as much as possible.

The selling price of the machine to the public by the local dealer, whether combined or otherwise, must not exceed $300 if the motive power is animal power, and must not exceed $500 if belt_propelled.

The readers of Patent Success will doubtless recall our article in a recent issue directing attention to the need of a practical beet pulling and topping machine.

October 28, 1912.
Beeler & Robb, Washington, D. C.
Gentlemen:—

Yours of the 24th inst., received and contents noted. We are hereby glad to acknowledge receipt of patent which we are perfectly satisfied with, your never tiring efforts and prompt returns of our many communications.

In reference to instructions will thank you for same and govern ourselves accordingly as near as possible and our work will all be referred in future with best wishes, beg to remain,

Yours truly,
John L. and A. W. White,
Huntington, W. Va.

REFERENCES.

We have just recently issued a reprint of our booklet "Letters of Patent Success," supplemented by additional testimonials and giving the names of about fifteen hundred clients whom we have served in recent years. These clients are classified under the different states of the Union and if you will write us for this booklet, it will assist you in looking us up and ascertaining our reliability once and for all. We prefer that inventors should write to those whom we have served before entrusting their interests to us because if this is done, a confidence will be established between our clients and ourselves which will be conducive to splendid future business. We are sure, furthermore, that you need not enclose stamped return envelopes in writing our references because every client we work for assures us that he stands ready at any time to testify regarding the character of service rendered by the firm of Beeler & Robb.

It is note-worthy that, among our references, we do not use congressional names, or the names of persons in high office. We number among our friends in Washington and elsewhere, a great many men who hold positions of affluence. The majority of these men, however, know nothing of our detail business methods and we therefore believe that they are not in a position to advise our prospective clients concerning the material advantages of our services, as are those inventors and manufacturing concerns who have actually employed us during past years.

WITNESSING SKETCHES.

It is frequently a very advantageous course from the standpoint of the inventor to have the first sketches or drawings of his invention properly witnessed and dated as a matter of precaution in the event subsequent proof of the inventive act is required. We advise our clients to send us these sketches and after we witness them, they will be returned to you or preserved in our files for future reference, as you may instruct.

We make no charge for the small service involved in this connection. Be careful that only persons in whom you have absolute confidence witness your drawings.

INVENTOR'S RECORD FILE.

Many of our clients, and inventors generally, are neglectful of an important matter in relation to their inventions. We refer now particularly to the failure of most inventors to preserve carefully a full record of the dates surrounding the completion and reduction to practice of their inventions. While it is true that this record is useful in one case out of a hundred, nevertheless, your case might be the one in which the facts concerning the origin of your invention may be needed, as in the possible event of an interference with some other inventor necessitating a decision regarding priority of invention.

To assist our clients in keeping a business-like record of this kind, we have at considerable expense and time prepared and printed a number of **Inventors' Record Files.** These files are about 9 inches by 15 inches in size and are printed so as to permit the filling in of all the data relative to your application. The files have spaces for endorsement of correspondence with your attorneys, endorsement of the dates of conception, making of sketches, making of model, disclosure to others, and reduction to practice appertaining to your invention. This record file will be invaluable to inventors and, in fact, corresponds with our own record files used for cases handled by us, except that the file is printed with data valuable particularly to the inventor.

The Inventors' Record File will contain all papers appertaining to your invention in flat condition and upon receipt of your request therefor, we shall be pleased to mail you one of these files for your personal use.

REVISION OF PATENT LAWS.

Much publicity has recently been given to the contemplated revision of the patent laws governing the grant of patents, and a brief discussion of the contemplated changes is timely. Among the more radical suggestions for revision is the proposition to prevent the establishment of a monopoly in relation to unpatented articles that may be used in connection with patented articles. This matter was brought to a head in the famous decision of the United States Supreme Court in Dick vs. Henry, where those selling ink and supplies for use on a patented duplicating machine were held to be guilty of contributory infringement in view of the fact that said machine was sold under the condition that supplies used therewith should be purchased only from the owner of the patent of said machine. Manufacturers are making a hard fight to prevent a modification of the patent laws that will alter the doctrine of infringement above referred to. I gained the impression while attending the hearings of the Congressional Committee considering the patent law revision that the members of the committee are in favor of preventing any monopoly attaching to unpatented articles merely because they are use with a patented machine.

Another change proposed is the introduction of a compulsory license clause intended to prevent the locking up of patented inventions. It provides in effect that if an invention is not manufactured within four years from the date patent is granted and no reasonable excuse exists for failure to manufacture, any person may compel the owner to grant a license on reasonable terms fixed by the District Court of the district in which the patent owner resides.

It is well known that patent applications are maintained pending in the Patent Office many years frequently, as was the case with the Seldon automobile application, and isued after the particular art was well advanced, thereby overlapping inventions that were on the market a number of years. The proposed patent act provides that the patent shall not continue for more than nineteen years after the date on which application therefor is filed, exclusive of the time required by the Patent Office to act on the cases. I doubt the expediency of the particular method proposed to prevent the long pendency of patent applications, but I am heartily in favor of the

adoption of some method to accomplish the desired result.

Another important feature of the bill and one which I commented on last year in a previous issue of Patent Success, is that under which attorneys practicing before the Patent Office shall demonstrate by legal and technical examination their fitness to serve applicants for patents. Having been myself prepared to work in my profession by a special legal and technical education, I have always felt that practitioners before the Patent Office similarly prepared should have a definite standing distinguishing them from practitioners not possessed of the same capabilities. A distinction of this sort has been in vogue in relation to British patent practitioners for many years.

ILLUSTRATING A DECEPTION.

I had an interesting talk a short time ago with one of my patent attorney friends, which presents quite clearly the difficulty met with by the average attorney of the better class in competing with those attorneys who are utilizing "special inducement" and other sensational methods. My friend stated that some months since, one of his correspondents wrote him submitting an invention, whereupon he advised that the usual search of the Patent Office records should be made to be sure that a patent was obtainable. The inventor in question replied, however, that he had submitted his invention to two different firms of attorneys and both of them had sent him patentability **guarantee certificates**, under which, if they failed to secure patents, they would refund their fees. The client argued that these attorneys would never offer to refund their fees if they were not sure of securing the patent and he claimed that it was a case of two against one in regard to the advice offered. My friend, of course, realized that it would be a hard matter to convince this inventor that the patentability certificates were issued probably without any search of the records being made, so to avoid a lot of correspondence, he made a search in the particular instance without an advance fee and sent to this party copies of prior patents which showed practically the same invention as that of his inquirer. The man immediately realized then the value of my friend's advice, paid him for the search, and sent him a new case for which he is now securing a patent under most excellent methods pursued by him. When it comes right down to the essence of the matter, what you want to know is whether the patentability guarantee certificate is worth anything to you. We claim that it is a valueless document under many conditions and we ask that you write Messrs. Dixon & Dixon, of Comanche, Texas, Mrs. Nancy Kimmons, of Lowell, Arkansas, Mr. B. Z. Smith, of Mountain Home, Idaho, Mr. H. I. Wiechers, of Leon, Gto. Mexico, Mr. Henry C. Floyd, of Beulahville, Va., and Mr. E. E. Trevillion, of Newellton, La., and ask them what kind of service they have received under certificates of the class referred to. You may gain the impression from the foregoing that we are disposed to be knockers against the other man, and we are free to confess that when it comes to the use of what we believe to be improper and unprofessional methods in our business, we are going to fight those methods as long as we are in business and show up as much as possible how the interests of inventors are liable to be seriously endangered by the acceptance of "special inducements" and other unworthy considerations. A number of attorneys in our profession have been working along this line for years and between us we have done a lot of cleansing work and have practically forced the adoption in a good many instances of fair methods that ought to obtain between attorneys with whom inventors all over the country must deal without the benefit of personal consultation.

THE SMALLEST DYNAMO IN THE WORLD.

An electric generator only 15 millimeters in height, weighing only 7 grammes and wound with silk-insulated wire was recently exhibited before the French Academy of Sciences. The armature of this diminutive machine is 6.2 millimeters in diameter, and the commutator and brushes are constructed as accurately as in a large machine. The output is about 2 amperes at 2.5 volts.

Jackson, Minn.,
Beeler & Robb, July 5, 1912.

Dear Sir:—

The Hand-book also copies of patent No. 930,366 at hand for which I acknowledge receipt.

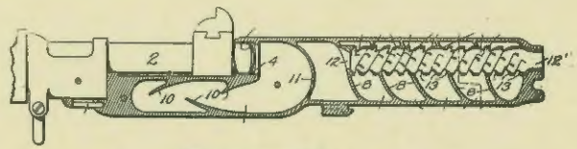
I note the rates for patents are slightly higher than before but still I am glad to say that Beeler & Robb are my attorneys. If I should want another patent handled, I would trust it in your hands.

Yours truly, Fred. J. Erickson.

THE MOORE SILENCER.

Army experts have been working for a number of years to produce a practical type of silencer for the ordinary service rifle, a device recognized by the war offices of all countries as something which will greatly increase efficiency in actual warfare. A great disadvantage of the best-known silencers resides in the fact that while they considerably muffle the noise incidental to firing the weapon, the construction of the silencer has a tendency to cause serious deflection of the projectile, reducing the accuracy of firing materially. Furthermore, the silencers heretofore proposed do not eliminate the flash incidental to firing and by which the location of a rifleman may be determined even in the dark.

Mr. Moore's silencer has been subjected to rigid tests during the past year at the United States Armory at Springfield, Mass., and most excellent reports have been rendered by the board of experts in charge. So favorable were the reports, in fact, that the United States Government has placed an order for 1,000 silencers, and it is highly probable that a very much larger order will be placed in the very near future, according to the present indications, not only by our government but by foreign war departments. This silencer has been evolved by our client, Mr. Robert A. Moore, of New York City, after years of experimenting, and he, in association with H. Tauscher, of 320 Broadway, New York City, the U. S. representative of many well-known foreign arms and ordnance manufacturers, controls the United States patent and also patents in about fifteen foreign countries.



The Moore Silencer.

HOW LEGISLATORS VIEW PATENTS.

The debate on August 7th in the House of Representatives upon the question of appropriating ten thousand dollars to investigate the Patent Office, developed some interesting statements from different Congressmen. Chairman Oldfield of the Patent Committee said, "the Patent Office has taken in and turned into the Treasure about $7,000,000 more than it has taken out of the Treasury." In speaking of the great corporations, who are said to take men out of the Patent Office, the same gentlemen said: "They want men who have started at the bottom in the Patent Office and have worked themselves up to the Commissionership or assistant Commissionership." If they want such men, we do not recall an instance in which they got one, as ordinarily the force of such companies is recruited from the assistant examiners of the Patent Office.

Congressman Mann said he thought the salaries in the Patent Office ought to be increased, but asked if Chairman Oldfield did not believe the Government would never be able to compete with salaries offered by outside people. Congressman Bowman remarked: "I have had some business with the Patent Office and the work that they have done for me has always been efficient." Mr. Bowman also said: "Ease in securing patents, I believe of great advantage to the country," and further, "I consider as one of the greatest assets of this country the inventive genius of its people. I do not favor the suggestion of the committee, that there might be a slight advance in Patent Office fees. They should be kept low and every encouragement and assistance given inventors."

PERPETUAL MOTION.

Perpetual motion is impossible because of the equality of cause and effect. The effect is never greater than its cause. There is no frictionless machine and force is always required to overcome inertia in a machine whose parts have any weight. This being the case, some of the power imparted to a machine must be used in imparting motion to the machine itself, and in keeping it in motion. The rest of the power appears in useful work. This is always but a fraction of the total power imparted to the machine. No machine can, therefore, in any way generate enough power to turn itself and do useful work. It cannot even generate power enough to keep itself in motion continuously. — From Scientific American.

AN INTERESTING CASE.

It is very rare that the average patent attorney does not receive in his practice annually many cases possessed of exceptional interest either from a technical, legal or other standpoint.

A number of years ago, I prosecuted an application for patent for an improvement in the ordinary deck of playing cards. The idea of the invention was to employ the regular suits now used, four in number, but to so print the cards in suitable colors that the cards of each two related suits should be associated by colors having a certain perceptible relation, though fully distinguishing such cards from one another. Furthermore, one set of related suits would be distinguished from the other set of related suits by colors having a perceptible antithesis. An example will best indicate the idea involved. In the ordinary game of euchre, and other games, the diamond and heart suits are related since the jacks constitute the bowers of which ever suit happens to be trumps; likewise the club and spade suits are related. A player learning these games, or one who is not very adept, frequently forgets the association between the related suits and the lack of association between the diamond-heart suits and the club-spade suits. I worked on this case practically two years before I was able to convince the Patent Examiner that the printing of the diamond and heart suits in related colors, such as deep red and pink, and the printing of the club and spade suits in blue and light blue colors having a predetermined relation in each instance, but those of the last two suits having a perceptive antithesis to those of the first two suits, constituted invention. In the arguments in the case, the effect of the invention on the perceptive faculties, and also in respect to association or disassociation by mental processes, were questions treated lengthily. After I had finally secured favorable consideration and patent was ready to be allowed, the Examiner made a further search and discovered a prior British patent showing the identical invention presented by my client so that the case which I had practically won was finally anticipated and rejected upon a reference which, had it been discovered at the outstart, would have eliminated the necessity of any arguments whatever.—J. F. R.

OFFICE ADDRESSING MACHINE.

There is need at the present time in business offices where only a few thousand names represent the extent of correspondents of the business, for a comparatively simple machine for addressing a complete list of such correspondents. A number of addressing machines are on the market today but most of them are complicated and are too expensive to use because they represent an investment which in a small business would not be warranted by the advantages derived. The foregoing presents a nut to crack which will ultimately return an ample reward to the inventor devising a simple machine for the purpose in question.

TEMPORARY PROTECTION.

We are frequently presented with the inquiry: Is there any way in which I may secure temporary protection while I am completing my invention without filing an application for patent? Several years ago, the law of caveats which afforded an inventor temporary protection for one year, was repealed by Congress so that at the present time, it is impossible for an inventor to present his invention to the Patent Office except by an application for patent. An invention of importance under the conditions stated warrants an early filing of application therefor whether the invention is in its complete commercial state or not. In this way, the broad features of the invention will be protected and when improvements are ultimately made for commercializing a device, such improvements can be amply covered in supplemental applications. This course involves increased expense but it is a bad policy to withhold application for patent for an invention of merit when it is borne in mind that some one may enter an application ahead of you and by so doing possibly prevent you from obtaining the broader patent except at exceeding great expense in protecting your interests.

NOTICE.

Last May we moved to more commodius offices in the Southern Building, 15th and H Sts. N. W., Washington, D. C. Some of our clients appear not to have observed our announcements though we have tried to notify all. Please address or call upon us at our present location.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRADE-MARK AND PATENT INTERFERENCES.

In pointing out a distinction between a trade-mark interference and a patent interference, Mr. Justice Robb of the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia has said: "In a trade-mark interference proceeding, the issue which the Commissioner is called upon to determine is not merely one of priority, as in a patent interference proceeding, but involves any issue that might be raised in an ex parte case. (In re Herbst C. D. 1909, 333; 141, O. G. 286; 32 App. D. C., 565.

EXPORTATION OF AUTOS.

More Than $20,000,000 in Value of Those Sent Abroad.

More than twenty million dollars' worth of automobiles were exported during the past year, twenty times as many as were exported ten years previous, while the imports have materially decreased from year to year. One-third of the exports went to Canada, the remainder to France, Germany, England, Australia, South America, Mexico and countries in Asia. These facts, indicated in a statement just issued by the bureau of statistics, Department of Commerce and Labor, are said to show the superiority of the automobile of domestic manufacture.

KIND DEED WINS VALUABLE PATENT FOR YOUNG SINGER.

George T. Thomson, Picture Show Entertainer, Hears of Good Fortune.

A trivial kindness paid to an aged stranger he met in the Union Station last August will make twenty-one-year-old George T. Thomson, singer in a moving picture theater, the heir to a patent, which railroad officials declare is equal to an enormous fortune. Young Thomson, who is a son of Judge E. E. Thomson, of Clarendon, Va., received the news of his good fortune recently in a letter from his beneficiary, Patrick Donavon, an aged and wealthy resident of North Evans, N. Y.

"You were kind enough to speak to me and keep me company when I missed my train at the depot in Washington last summer," read the letter, "I have always intended to repay you some day. Now that I am slowly dying and have no one to whom I can leave this patent except my daughter, who will be well provided for as the heir to my real estate, I want to make you the heir to it. My son died recently, and I will soon follow him."

The patent to which Thomson becomes heir through his kindness involves a railroad tie which will prevent spreading of rails. Expert railroad engineers, Thomson says, declare the patent a valuable one to railroad builders.

Thomson says that he may go to North Evans and see his aged benefactor before the latter dies.

EDISON'S ADVICE TO INVENTORS

"Work Twenty Hours a Day"

"The best advice I can give to a man who wants to be a successful inventor," declared the man who made electricity the world's slave, "is to work twenty hours a day. That is what I did for thirty years, and I cannot see that it hurt me. There is really no other way to produce results. Good inventions do not come easily. The hardest way to do a thing is almost invariably the best way.

"This fact was first called to my attention years ago by a big steel man. If he was trying to do something that seemed to require a piece of hard steel he at once chose a soft piece. My experience has shown me that he was right. The best wheat and the best cotton require the most labor to produce. It is so with everything. Whenever I bring about a certain result too easily, I abandon it at once and look for a hard way.

"That is why I am suspicious of the type of flying-machine that is now in use. Flying-machines have developed too rapidly—too easily. I believe the flying-machine is destined to revolutionize our methods of communication and transportation. I believe that within ten years it will be carrying mails and a few passengers—but not in its present form. Now it is a machine for sport. Flight is seventy-five per cent a matter of man. The man ought not to figure so much. The machine should be so efficient, so easily controlled, that any man of ordinary intelligence could quickly learn to operate it.

"I believe the present machines are built on the wrong principle. They can't lift themselves. It is necessary to propel them along the ground until the resistance of the

air against their planes causes them to rise. I believe a flying-machine can be built, and will be built within ten years, that will lift itself and go off to its destination in all kinds of weather at a rate of a hundred miles an hour. It doesn't take long to perfect an invention after it is once started. Look how quickly the perfected automobile came. The Wright Brothers have made a fine start, and are entitled to all credit for having made it, but the finish is yet to come. Perhaps they will perfect their own invention. It doesn't matter whether they do or not. If they don't, others will."

It's delightful to talk with Edison. When a question is asked him, his animated face relaxes almost into perfect placidity as, with inclined head and hand to ear, he strains his failing sense of hearing to catch the words. Then comes an instantaneous change. His face either lights up and breaks into a smile, or darkens into a frown.

If he wishes to express his contempt for the little the world knows as compared with the much there is to know, he draws down the corners of his mouth and scowls. But when he is speaking of what we shall yet learn—then he drives along under full steam. Vigor and confidence stick out from his words like iron-filings bristling around a magnet. At such times, his whole mental attitude may be summed up in a statement that he often repeats:

"Anything within reason may be done, and will be done some day."

I asked him if it was thinkable that power should be wirelessly transmitted from the earth to a flying-machine in mid air, or to a ship at sea. Of course such an idea was thinkable, he replied. He did not know how thus to transmit power, but he could conceive of its being done. There was nothing at all unreasonable about it. He could even conceive of power being drawn directly from the sun. Sun-motors were already in existence. They were not commercial successes, but they constituted proof of the possibility of hooking the sun to machinery by a short chain. Fine! Here, indeed, Edison has given inventors a nut to crack that would be well worth the cracking. To enslave the sun. To snatch the incalculable power that comes through the ether and tuck it right up tight behind the busy fingers of the machine! Coal-fields—what would they be worth? Nothing. Water-power? Obsolete. Peary? What was it to discover the north pole as compared with devising a method of tapping the great power-till of the sun.

But what qualities besides the ability to work twenty hours a day must the successful inventor possess? The question was put to Edison. "Oh," he replied, "he must have more up here"—tapping his forehead—"than any of us have yet; but that will take care of itself. The age of invention has barely dawned,, and the world will develop infinitely better inventors than those of today.

"Such a man, in addition to a superior mind, would require a large endowment of the quality of persistence. Any good inventor must be persistent. He must not be discouraged if the best authorities in the world say it is impossible to do what he is trying to do. And when he encounters what appears to be an insurmountable stone wall, he must not give up. He must only lay this particular work aside for a month or two, and do something else. That will rest his mind. Then he must go back to his old problem and work at it harder than ever. He must not stop. He must go on. And he must continue to go on, even if it be for years. An inventor, once convinced that his idea is reasonable, can stop at no place short of success."